

VZCZCXRO7113  
RR RUEHDT RUEHPB  
DE RUEHHM #0684 1781234  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 271234Z JUN 07  
FM AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2805  
INFO RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 2000  
RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE  
RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY 3006

UNCLAS HO CHI MINH CITY 000684

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: CG PUSHES PARTY FOR RELEASE OF DISSIDENT BUI KIM THANH

REF: HCMC 625 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)1. (SBU) On June 26, we spoke with the Director of the Bien Hoa Mental Institution, Nguyen Van Tho, to continue to follow up on the case of land rights activist Bui Kim Thanh. (Thanh was involuntarily admitted to the mental institution in November 2006.) The Director confirmed reftel reporting that it had sent a formal proposal to the HCMC Prosecutor's office to reexamine Bui Kim Thanh as a prelude to possible release. However, to date, the HCMC Prosecutor's office has yet to respond. The Prosecutor's office, which is responsible for her incarceration in the mental institution, must also authorize reexamination.

[1](#)2. (SBU) On June 27, the Consul General raised the case of Bui Kim Thanh during a farewell call with HCMC Party Secretary and Politburo member Le Thanh Hai. Noting continued USG concern, the Consul General said that it would be a helpful sign of progress and goodwill following the visit of President Nguyen Minh Triet to the United States were the Prosecutor's Office to act quickly and Thanh released.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Secretary Hai appeared to be well-briefed on the case. He noted that it is an "internal Vietnamese matter," but that had worked constructively with the Consul General on cases involving U.S. citizens arrested for political activity in Vietnam. (Note: Hai was referring to his discussions with the Consul General over the fates of two U.S. citizens -- Do Cong Thanh and Thong Nguyen Cuc Foshee -- who were imprisoned for anti-GVN activities and were released in the summer of 2006.) He closed discussion on Bui Kim Thanh by observing that, "I think we can have rational resolutions for problem cases."

WINNICK